In any community human and industrial wastes must be disposed of in a manner that will avoid detrimental affects on the resources of the community. Inadequately treated sewage can contaminate ground water supplies and endanger the health of the people.

Sewage problems are also the result of the soil conditions where septic tanks are used. There are areas known in Thomasville where the soil is impermeable and is not conducive to septic tank systems. Soil of this type forces sewage to the surface, making a soft spot in a person's yard. This type of condition normally lowers property values. Wherever it is available, people should be encouraged to hook up to a sewerage system. At the present time only about 60 per cent of the urban development in Thomasville is being served by the sewerage system. This figure may appear low, but it should be remembered that the areas annexed to the City in 1958 are not yet being served and it is in these areas that septic tank problems are being experienced. (See Map 3).

Sewers and waste treatment plants are directly related to planning the physical development in a city. The Planning Commission, in preparing its plans, must recognize the locations and capacities of such systems, as these factors represent the upper limits on the density of urban development.

Waste Treatment Plants and Service Areas

Two Imhoff-type waste treatment plants serve the City of Thomasville. The Northside and Southside plants are each capable of handling 750,000 gallons every day. The Northside Plant is located outside the city limits on Hunt's Fork Creek. Its service area includes that part of Thomasville lying north of the Southern Railway's tracks. (See Map 3). The Southside Plant is also located outside the city limits beyond the southeast corner of the City. This plant discharges its effluent into Hamby Creek. Its service area includes that part of Thomasville lying south of the Southern Railway's tracks.